



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
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USDA and HHS to Host Informational Meeting Concerning Compliance with the Federal Select Agent Program

WASHINGTON, May 3, 2010 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will co-host a public meeting on June 15 to provide specific regulatory guidance on the Federal Select Agent Program. The program was established under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 to regulate certain biological agents and toxins. The meeting will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, Nev.

This meeting is an opportunity for interested individuals and entities possessing, using or transferring select agents, to obtain specific regulatory guidance and information on the standards concerning biosafety and biosecurity issues. Security risk assessments, entity registration, biosafety requirements and security measures are among the issues that will be discussed by representatives from APHIS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Attendees must register in advance of the meeting. Registration forms are available online from the National Select Agent Registry's Web site at www.selectagents.gov; by telephone to (301) 734-5960 or by e-mail to agricultural.select.agent.program@aphis.usda.gov.

Notice of this public meeting is published in the today's May 3 *Federal Register*.

Travel directions to John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel are available on the Internet at www.janugget.travelscream.com/map. RTC RIDE Route 21 (from RTC Centennial Plaza) serves the hotel.

For more information or if special accommodations are required, such as a sign language interpreter, contact the agricultural select agent program by telephone at (301) 734-5960 or via e-mail to agricultural.select.agent.program@aphis.usda.gov.

Note to Reporters: USDA news releases, program announcements and media advisories are available on the Internet and through Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. Go to the APHIS news release page at www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom and click on the RSS feed link. To receive APHIS releases automatically, send an e-mail message to lyris@mdrdlyriss10.aphis.usda.gov and leave the subject blank. In the message, type subscribe press_releases.